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INFO ALL NEAR EAST COLLECTIVE
ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
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RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
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SIPDIS SIPDIS
SENSITIVE
SBU PRIVACY ACT
DEPT FOR SCA/CEN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MOPS](#) [UZ](#)
SUBJECT: UZBEKISTAN: STATE-RUN PRESS SAYS PUBLIC VIEWS GAZA CONFLICT
WI

TH ALARM

(SBU) According to a January 6 press release in Narodnoye Slovo,

one of Uzbekistan's main state-run newspapers, Uzbekistan's public views with "great alarm" the escalation of tensions in Gaza, which undermines the peaceful process of regulating the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and prospects for stabilization of the Middle East. The paper states, "The fierce clashes in Gaza have already caused many casualties and a humanitarian crisis. There can be no prospect for a violent solution to the conflict. The public of Uzbekistan calls on the sides engaged in the conflict to stop military actions and to resolve their differences through negotiations." (Comment: Interestingly, Uzbekistan addressed this issue in one of its main state-run newspapers relatively quickly, in contrast to the silence of its media in the week following the outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Georgia in August. Just as Uzbekistan sought to avoid picking sides in the Russia-Georgia conflict, this article does not cast blame on either side in the Gaza conflict. End comment.)
NORLAND

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